

Nablus protest on for third day

TEL AVIV, Feb. 7 (R). — Student demonstrations broke out for the third successive day in Nablus today. More than 40 students were arrested there on Sunday and yesterday. Military government sources said tonight that schools in Nablus were closed and pupils had attacked Israeli vehicles with stones. Soldiers dispersed demonstrators and by noon, quiet had been restored. The students were protesting against the establishment of Jewish settlements. Israeli security forces have arrested 45 Arab guerrillas belonging to seven different guerrilla cells in the occupied West Bank, a military spokesman said tonight. He said those arrested were found in possession of arms, sabotage equipment and duplicating machines.

JORDAN TIMES

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردن تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

King Hussein exchanges messages with Arafat on Arab situation

BEIRUT, Feb. 7 (Agencies). — His Majesty King Hussein has sent a message to Palestine Liberation Organisation Executive Committee Chairman Yasser Arafat, the Palestine News Agency Wafa reported today. The agency said King Hussein's message was in response to a message Mr. Arafat had sent the King 15 days ago outlining the Palestinians' point of view on the current situation in the Arab World.

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Lebanese army clashes with Syrian forces in Beirut, east Lebanon

BEIRUT, Feb. 7 (Agencies). — Soldiers of Lebanon's fledgling army clashed in fierce fighting with Syrian peace troops today and reliable right-wing sources said at least nine people were killed.

The sources said the fighting, involving weapons of all calibres, erupted when Lebanese officers objected to an attempt by Syrian troops to establish a road block near a Lebanese army barracks in eastern Beirut's Fayadiyeh suburb. Hospital sources in eastern Beirut said several people were wounded, some seriously, and added that the death toll could rise further.

According to the rightwing sources, the clash left seven Syrians and two Lebanese dead and triggered a similar incident near the Lebanese air force base of Rayak in eastern Lebanon near the border with Syria. No details from Rayak were immediately available.

Raid on Palestinian offices

At the same time, Syrian forces raided Palestinian offices south of Beirut and arrested three guerrillas accused of the kidnapping of two Christians the day before.

The separate incidents, affecting both leftist and rightist parties, constituted a crackdown by Syrian peace-keepers during a recent upsurge of violence and lawlessness in post-war Lebanon.

The Lebanese army, regulars, all of them Christians, fought an intermittent gun battle for four hours with the Syrians, who ringed the Fayadiyeh barracks north of Beirut with tanks and heavy guns. A ceasefire appeared to be holding at midday.

There was no official report on casualties but a French hospital said it was "full to the brim" with dead and wounded. Both sides also took prisoners. In Na'meh, nine miles south of Beirut, the Syrians "purged" the town and the area of guerrilla groups, an official peace-keeping communique said. It was one of the strongest crackdowns on the guerrillas since the war ended.

Politically, the Syrians and Palestinians have strengthened their alliance to counter President Anwar Sadat's peace initiative with Israel, but the two sides maintain only an uneasy truce in Lebanon.

Officers inside the Fayadiyeh barracks said the gun battle started after the Syrians placed guards outside the gates of the army compound. "When the Syrians refused to leave, the fight started," explained a Lebanese army lieutenant. He said it was not known who opened fire first and official statements did not say.

Syrian, Lebanese commanders will impose discipline

Both the Syrian and Lebanese army commands treated the battles as a one-time, freak incident and promised "prompt disciplinary measures" to punish those who caused the incident.

The clash in Beirut followed yesterday's deployment of strong Syrian reinforcements in the war-shattered capital, which has been shaken by a rash of bomb blasts on both sides of the invisible line between the Moslem and Christian halves of the city.

Defence Minister Fouad Butros issued a statement regretting the incident.

"I am confident that the (military) commands concerned will take the necessary measures to prevent any repercussions," Mr. Butros said in his statement. He added he hoped that harmony would be restored soon.

The Fayadiyeh fighting erupted in the eastern part of the city where signs of popular disenchantment with the Syrians have been increasingly noticeable over the past six or seven months.

Lebanon's rightwing militias, composed mainly of Christians, were saved from military collapse by Syria switching support from the left in the later stages of the war. In rightist eyes, the war was caused by the presence of foreigners on Lebanese soil — Palestinian commanders.

We are grateful for the Sy-

Soviet reinforcements on the way as Ethiopia scores gains in Ogaden war

NAIROBI, Feb. 7 (R). — Ethiopian troops, supported by Cuban and the Soviet Union, have pushed Somali forces from areas around the strategic mountain city of Harar and back towards their border across the Ogaden Desert, according to Addis Ababa Radio.

The new offensive — described by officials in the Ethiopian capital as "concerted action" — to drive the Somalis out of our territory — coincided with reports from Western diplomatic sources in Mogadishu, the Somali capital, that Soviet troops carrying thousands of Cuban reinforcements to Ethiopia were on their way to Ethiopia's Red Sea port of Assab.

The sources said the ships would dock soon and the troops would be deployed within the next few weeks of the latest flare-up in the six-month Ogaden Desert war, where the military initiative was now with Ethiopia.

Informed sources in Mogadishu said recent heavy bombing and shelling of Somali positions was seen as a prelude to a big ground offensive. But Ethiopia's acting Information Minister Baalu Girma told reporters in Addis Ababa today:

"The world is speculating that we want to go beyond our borders, but this is not true. All we want is to drive the Somalis out of our territory. We have to settle this question once and for all."

An information officer of the country's military council told reporters military gains had been made round the mountain citadel of Harar, a key stronghold on Ethiopia's eastern front.

Diplomatic sources in the Somali capital estimate that 3,000 to 6,000 Cubans are on their way to Ethiopia to join the 3,000 Cubans and 1,500 Russians said by U.S. intelligence reports to be already there, though this has not been confirmed by Ethiopia.

One Ethiopian spokesman in Rome said today the Soviet Union and Cuba had sent only about 100 military advisers and doctors to help and their aid had not exceeded \$1 million.

"We do not need the troops of the Soviet Union or Cuba, Maj. Girma Neway, Chairman of the Ethiopian Revolution Information Centre in Italy told a news conference. "We only get medical and technical assistance." But he added Ethiopia had reliable information that Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Iran were airlifting well over 7,000 troops to help the Somalis.

Ethiopia, which appears reluctant to call this latest push on its eastern front a counter-offensive, emphasises its defensive nature, though only made possible by large quantities of newly-supplied Soviet arms.

Big Russian transports, from an air fleet of more than 200, as well as dozens of Soviet and East European ships, have delivered supplies to Ethiopia in the past several weeks.

Israeli shipments

Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan's confirmation last night of reports that his country was supplying arms to Ethiopia came as a surprise in some quarters.

One official of the Israeli Foreign Ministry stressed the sales were on a small scale and consisted mainly of ammunition, domestic and first aid equipment.

Some foreign news reports had said Israeli shipments included anti-tank, and anti-aircraft missiles, cluster bombs and napalm.

Mr. Dayan told an Israeli radio reporter in Zurich the decision had been based on Ethiopia's strategic position along the vital Red Sea shipping route to Israel.

But one official of his ministry said in Jerusalem today that because some states which supported Ethiopia were anti-Israel, any arms aid by Israel might well be a political risk, but this was felt to be justified.

He said that his father, the ruler of Qatar Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Thani, has urged West Germany, France and the United States to discontinue arms shipments to Israel.

"The oil weapon entered the 1973 war and was proved effective. I believe the United States can calculate the strength and effectiveness of that weapon. We will not hesitate to use the oil weapon again, if necessary," the minister added.

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Qatar warns "oil weapon" may be used if talks fail

BEIRUT, Lebanon, Feb. 7 (AP). — The Arabs will not hesitate to use the "oil weapon" against the West if the current efforts for a Middle East settlement collapse, Qatar's oil minister said in a newspaper interview today.

The warning contrasted with a declaration last month by the Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Fahd, that oil will never again be used against the West.

"The Arabs will resort to the oil weapon, if they become convinced that the peace efforts have reached a dead end. The United States will have to play its big role now and to pressure Israel to end its intransigence," Sheikh Abdul Aziz bin Khalifa told the Beirut conservative daily Al Anwar.

He said Israel will have to evacuate all Arab lands seized during the 1967 Middle East war, including Arab Jerusalem. "Jerusalem is an Arab city. It will remain Arab. And we will never budge from this position," Sheikh Abdul Aziz insisted.

He said that his father, the ruler of Qatar Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Thani, has urged West Germany, France and the United States to discontinue arms shipments to Israel.

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Sadat asks Congress for arms

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7 (R). — President Anwar Sadat today went to Congress, where he was welcomed as "a man of peace," to make a strong appeal for American arms.

He made it clear to members of Congress that his appeal for U.S. arms would not stop with his request for F-5E aircraft, which is now being considered by the Carter administration.

The Egyptian leader told reporters after a closed door meeting with members of the House International Relations Committee and congressional leaders that he would not be shy about asking for American military equipment.

Last time I was shy. I am not shy any more," said President Sadat, who told reporters that he had given a detailed report on Middle East developments to the legislators, his first since he met members of Congress in April last year.

Speaker Thomas O'Neill told reporters after the meeting that President Sadat had made "a real appeal for a note of bitter discouragement."

Mr. O'Neill said he detected "a note of bitter discouragement" on the part of President Sadat, apparently over the pace of the peace drive.

Democratic representative Stephen Solarz of New York told reporters President Sadat had pointed out that in the past he had asked for the F-5E but had described the aircraft as a 10th rate plane. The Egyptian leader said today that he was now going to ask for any equipment he needed, Mr. Solarz added.

Mr. Solarz said Mr. Sadat did not mention the highly sophisticated F-15 fighters which Saudi Arabia wants to buy from the United States. But he said Mr. Sadat obviously wanted more sophisticated aircraft than the F-5E.

President Sadat was warmly greeted when he met members of the House International Relations Committee this morning.

President Sadat's meeting with the members of Congress lasted about two hours then he went straight into a meeting with members of the Senate led by the Foreign Relations Committee.

In brief remarks to reporters President Sadat said he was happy with the warmth of his reception. When asked for his reaction if Congress did not ap-

prove his request for American arms, he joked: "If they don't approve I think I can say as a friend I shall raise hell for them."

Under the law, Congress can veto any foreign arms sale valued at more than \$25 million. Mr. Solarz, a member of the International Relations Committee and a strong supporter of Israel, said Mr. Sadat had said he wanted the U.S. military equipment, not to attack Israel, but because he was surrounded by unfriendly countries.

He said Mr. Sadat expressed particular concern about Soviet influence in Libya and Ethiopia.

He added that Congress' response to Mr. Sadat's request for military equipment would depend on its assessment of the chances of a Middle East peace. He said that even the supply of the relatively unsophisticated F-5 war planes would cross the barrier between non-lethal and lethal equipment and could produce problems in Congress.

Israel Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, meanwhile, was on his way to the United States, via Montreal because of bad weather in New York, for a 10-day visit to the United States designed to counter Mr. Sadat's depiction of Israel as intransigent.

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Syria holds referendum on new term for Assad

DAMASCUS, Feb. 7 (R). — Over four million Syrians vote tomorrow in what is expected to be a near unanimous endorsement for President Hafez Assad's nomination for a second seven-year term.

The People's Council (parliament) last month unanimously approved the uncontested nomination made by the ruling Arab Baath Socialist Party leadership.

President Assad's present term ends on March 13 this year and the People's Council has approved a referendum on a new term for him.

Rallies and processions have been staged in support of President Assad, the first Syrian president since independence 35 years ago to complete seven continuous years in office.

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Israel dispenses summary injustice to Arab students under occupation

The first part of this article is a follow-up on a report published on page 2 of yesterday's paper by the U.S. based Palestine Human Rights Campaign on the case of Sami Esmail, a U.S. citizen of Palestinian origin. This is the second of a regular series of such articles, notices and updates that the Jordan Times will be publishing to publicise Israeli violations of the human rights of Arabs living under Israeli occupation.

By a Jordan Times Special Correspondent

Recent weeks have seen the continued mistreatment of young Palestinians by the Israeli occupying authorities. Two incidents in particular have made the international news media. The Jordan Times recently visited with reliable sources trying to determine the facts of the two cases.

The first case occurred on December 21, 1977 at Lydda airport. The person involved was Sami Ali Esmail, a Palestinian-American from Ramallah. The second case occurred on January 5, 1978 at Ramallah at the premises of the military governor. The two young men involved, Khaled Mohammad Abd Rabboh and Mohammad Shteyyeh, are both students at Bir Zeit University in Bir Zeit.

Mr. Esmail, a graduate student in electronic engineering at Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan, arrived at Lydda airport on his way to Ramallah to see his dying father, Ali Esmail. He had been a teaching assistant and is about ten credits from completing his M.S. degree. Mr. Esmail never got to see his father because he was taken by police in the airport and put into custody. He has been accused of being a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, meeting a foreign agent, spreading Hadaf (a PFLP newspaper) in the United States, and helping to collect money for the PFLP in the U.S.

When Mr. Esmail was finally allowed to see father, it was at his father's funeral and under heavy guard. He went to Bireh, the twin town of Ramallah, 15 kms. north of Jerusalem, for two hours to pay his respects.

Mr. Esmail was held in solitary confinement for the first 22 days in a prison in Pofah Tikvah and was later transferred to Kefar Yona. His family has been allowed to visit him several times there, it is believed that he was transferred to the second prison because of pressure from the U.S. Department of State. They have, apparently, all the information about his treatment since he has been in custody. A part of his treatment at the hands of the security police has been a forced confession that he was a member of the PFLP.

Mr. Esmail last visited Ramallah last in 1975, and had been a student at Friends Boys School there, the Quaker school established by missionaries in 1878. Recently he had travelled to Libya and Tunisia as a part of an organised tour from the United States, for a period of about two weeks.

Mr. Esmail's case has received considerable attention abroad, and in fact 15 chapters of the National Committee to Defend the Human Rights of Sami Esmail have been formed in the United States. One chapter has been formed in Kuwait as well. His defence is being handled by Felicia Langer and in the United States Abdeen Jabara, an Arab-American lawyer in Detroit, has been retained for counsel. Some of the accusations by the authorities are alleged to have taken place in the United States. Mr. Esmail is to come to trial on the fourteenth of February. One of his professors from Michigan State University and a member of the National Lawyers Guild in the U.S. are coming to the trial as observers.

It is believed that Mr. Esmail was able to attend the funeral of his father only through the efforts of his lawyer Felicia Langer.

The second case involved the physical beating of both Khaled Mohammad Abd Rabboh and Mohammad Shteyyeh from 8 p.m. until 12 p.m. on January 5. Although there are many similar experiences which can be related by young Palestinians, this instance is perhaps unique in that three foreign professors from Bir Zeit University, Dr. Bob Atkins, Dr. Sykes and Mr. Jim Aury saw the students go into the office of the military governor at Ramallah, waited outside, and saw them leave four hours later.

beating that after a period of waiting he was left alone with a female soldier and was told by her that he was handsome and that she would not tell anyone if he would only tell her what he wanted to know.

In a telephone interview with Dean Baramki of Bir Zeit University, the military governor of Ramallah district denied that the men were beaten severely and they had in fact left in good health. This interview took place about one day after the incident.

The fathers of Mr. Abd Rabboh and Mr. Shteyyeh were threatened with fines of 2,000 lira if their sons demonstrated again. The Jordan Times was told that this tactic is an often used one, fathers of the accused are often made to appear with their sons or threatened with fines in an effort to put fear into anyone opposed to the occupying forces in Palestine.

The Jordan Times was also told that it is not unusual for one or more students to be summoned to the military governor in Ramallah each week. In a recent incident, soldiers came onto the campus at Bir Zeit University, went to the cafeteria and took five students to the military governor in Ramallah.

They asked for the fathers as well, and then threatened the fathers with fines if their sons demonstrated again, even though it was not proven just what the five students had done.

Since the incident, Bir Zeit University has lodged a formal protest as did International Red Cross. The foreign faculty members sent a letter of protest to editors of newspapers abroad and locally. Presently the students, on legal advice, are suing the occupying authorities. The authorities themselves are conducting their own investigation into the incident.

The Jordan Times was told that the incident at Ramallah is not at all unique, but that due to the fact that foreigners observed a part of it including hearing the sounds of interrogation, and observed the before and after condition of the men, it has received unusually wide publicity.

Both men received severe beatings on their shoulders and buttocks for periods of half an hour at a time. Mr. Abd Rabboh reported in a story by Associated Press that he at one point was beaten while lying on the ground with several soldiers standing on him. Mr. Shteyyeh

summons originally, to report to the military governors office, apparently in connection with a stone-throwing incident in Bir Zeit during Sadat's visit to Jerusalem. Their fathers were kept waiting outside during the four hour period. At one points, sources told the Jordan Times, the silhouettes of someone receiving and someone giving blows was seen through a frosted glass panel while a door was open for a short time. When the two young men emerged they were physically broken. Mr. Abd Rabboh was immediately hospitalised on doctors orders, while Mr. Shteyyeh was hospitalised the next day.

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Assad to visit USSR; Khaddam briefs Kuwait

DAMASCUS, Feb. 7 (R). — Syrian President Hafez Assad will make an official visit to the Soviet Union during the second half of this month, official sources said here today.

Meanwhile, Syrian Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam arrived in Kuwait today to brief its ruler, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah on the outcome of the Algiers Summit meeting of Arab states opposed to the peace initiative of Egypt's President Anwar Sadat.

ITALIAN COMMUNISTS DROP DEMAND FOR CABINET POSTS

ROME, Feb. 7

National News Roundup

QUEEN ALYA REMEMBERED

AMMAN, Feb. 7 (JNA). — The first anniversary of the death of Queen Alya will be observed on Thursday Feb. 9, 1978. Prayers for her soul will be read in places of worship throughout the Kingdom. In the evening a memorial religious ceremony will take place in the Royal Raghdan palace and be concluded with reading from the holy Quran.

Representatives of official and popular organisations will visit the tomb of the late Queen to lay wreaths and read the Fatihah for the peace of her soul.

These will include members of the royal family and officials of the Royal Hashemite Court; the prime minister, and cabinet members; the speaker and members of the Upper House; the Commander-in-Chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces and top-ranking army officers; the directors of public security and intelligence and top officers of the two departments; the Chief Justice and Islamic religious heads; the Christian religious leaders; representatives of the welfare societies over which the late Queen resided, and friends of the late Queen.

Notice to telephone subscribers

AMMAN, Feb. 7 (JNA). — The Telecommunications Corporation has served notice that any telephone subscriber who wants to move to a new house should apply to the corporation for transference of his telephone set one month before the date of vacating the old residence. Non-compliance would entail cancellation of the owner's telephone subscription.

Cooperation between Jordan and Australia discussed

AMMAN, Feb. 7 (JNA). — Minister of Education Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali today discussed with the Australian charge d'affaires in Damascus ways and means of promoting cultural cooperation between Jordan and Australia. Meanwhile, the president of the Australian Trade Unions will begin a visit to Jordan on Feb. 21. During his two-day stay he will meet with the Jordanian officials concerned with the aim of strengthening labour cooperation between the two countries.

New measures to guarantee quality of agricultural produce

AMMAN, Feb. 7 (JNA). — The Ministry of Supply, in cooperation with the concerned departments, is working out new measures to guarantee the good quality of Jordanian agricultural products which are meant for local consumption or for export to Arab and foreign markets. Minister of Supply Marwan Al Qassem indicated that some farmers resort to deception when packing agricultural products. They place bad stocks underneath good ones which compels the seller to raise the prices of these products in order to offset the losses from damaged produce. The Ministry of Supply has also agreed with Romanian firms to provide Jordan with two plane loads of veal a week with effect from the middle of February. The meat will be sold at a reasonable price in the ministry's meat distribution centres, Mr. Al Qassem reported today.

Amman Stock Exchange Report

Symbol	Volume	Opening	Highest	Lowest	Closing	Last	Last
		price	selling	selling	price	trading	selling
1. Jordanian Bank	JD 1,000	1,050	1,050	1,050	1,050	1,000	1,050
2. Jordanian Commercial Bank	JD 1,000	71	7,050	7,150	7,150	—	—
3. Jordanian Agricultural Bank	JD 1,000	3,600	2,200	2,200	2,200	—	2,300
4. Arab Commercial Bank	JD 1,000	15	0,950	0,900	0,900	0,900	—
5. Jordanian Industrial Bank	JD 1,000	214	1,350	1,400	1,400	1,350	—
6. Jordanian Savings Bank	JD 10	5,000	15,500	15,550	15,550	—	—
7. Jordanian Insurance Co.	JD 1,000	210	1,000	1,050	1,050	—	1,050
8. Jordanian Finance Co.	JD 1,000	50	0,950	1,000	1,000	0,950	1,000
9. Jordanian Development Bank	JD 1,000	3,451	0,950	0,950	0,950	0,900	0,950
TOTAL TRADING VOLUME	JD 13,521						

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A European team is favoured to win the soccer World Cup

A European team has never yet won a world soccer cup played in South America. This year it could be different. A sports writer sums up the chances of the sixteen qualifying countries for the Argentina finals.

By Barry Wilson

LONDON — The soccer World Cup finals have been held four times in Latin America and each time a Latin American country won (Brazil twice Uruguay twice). This year in Argentina it could be different.

First, a quick look at all the qualifiers. Exactly half of the 16 qualifying countries are from Western Europe — West Germany, Italy, Holland, Spain, France, Scotland, Austria and Sweden.

Two are from Eastern Europe — Poland and Hungary. Four are from Latin America — Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and Peru; and the other two are Iran and Tunisia.

Missing teams

The big difference between this year's finals and those in Germany in 1974 is the drop-out of Eastern European teams. Four years ago there were five: East Germany, Poland, Bulgaria, Romania and Yugoslavia.

Indeed eight countries which made the last finals will be missing in Argentina: Australia, Haiti, Uruguay, Zaire and the four Eastern European teams mentioned above.

The two most famous names missing from both the last two World Cup finals are England and Czechoslovakia. England can now be said to have been desperately unlucky. Never before have two past winners of the cup had to play off in the same qualifying group.

Last year England lost the tussle with Italy, on goal difference, alone, and Italy goes to Argentina one of the favourites.

Four years ago England were put out by unsung Poland. The Poles subsequently went on to finish third in West Germany, beating Brazil in the play-off for third place, and only very narrowly losing to West Germany in the semi-finals. The England team has come in for a lot of stick in recent years, but they have obviously not been lucky in the cup draw. The other unlucky team is

Czechoslovakia, reigning European champions.

Czechoslovakia reached the World Cup final in 1962 in Chile (losing to Brazil) — the best performance so far by a non-South American team in a Latin American final.

But in the last two World Cup qualifiers the Czechs have had to contend with the Scots, and in these years it is arguable that Scotland has fielded its best international teams ever. Four years ago Scotland was the only team not to lose a single match in the West German finals. Last year Scotland beat England more decisively than did Italy. This must give the Scots a good chance.

South Americans look ragged. What of the South Americans this year?

None of them have looked like potential World Cup winners. Even Brazil have been unimpressive, struggling to beat Paraguay in the qualifying rounds.

The Argentinian side, automatic qualifiers as hosts, has looked ragged, and did badly against a number of touring European teams last year. They will get fanatical support (and no doubt the easiest draw), and the home side has nearly always done well in the World Cup. But they are not playing like winners.

Peru is dismissed, even by South American critics, and

Mexico (eliminated by Haiti last time) only just scraped in this time ahead of Canada and the United States (all three finished with the same number of points).

This year's main "also-rans" are Tunisia and Iran. Tunisia, against nearly all expectations, beat Egypt and Nigeria in the African zone final. Iran, a more serious contender, very easily won the Asian zone, and they could produce a surprise or two.

European cup

But, on paper at least, this year it looks like a European team for the cup.

Either of the Eastern European teams could win without shocking the critics. Poland has gone on from its 1974 triumph, and qualified easily this time, and is having a very careful preparation. Hungary, after its triumphs in the 1950s, has been in the doldrums. The Hungarians are not hitting the headlines, but they now have an excellent mature, experienced side which has seemed to get steadily better in the last year.

The West Germans are probably favourites to retain the cup. They have the best international record of any country, including Brazil, over the past ten years. But they may now be in something of a decline. Nearly all the stars of the last World Cup have now gone, and significantly, the best German club team of the past decade, Bayern Munich, is nearly bottom of the German league.

The same sort of thing has happened to Holland. It is on-

ly in the last ten years that Holland has had any success at all in international soccer. So successful were Dutch national and club teams in the early 1970s that the team was a strong favourite to do well in the 1974 World Cup, and it did very well, of course, losing only in the final.

The Dutch team was very individualistic, and Johan Cruyff will not be playing in Argentina.

The Dutch won their qualifying group easily although some close games they won could have gone the other way. It will be a great surprise to most critics if the Dutch do as well this year as in 1974.

The two surprise European qualifiers are France and Austria. Rugby-playing France hasn't played in the World Cup finals for 12 years. It has never been an outstanding soccer playing country. It narrowly beat Bulgaria and Ireland to qualify. The Frenchmen, although keen, are not expected to cause any surprises in Argentina.

It is 20 years since Austria played in the last round of a World Cup. Before the Second World War Austria had probably the top side in Europe. But football has not gone commercial in Austria and today the national team is made up of semi-professionals and players playing for foreign clubs, mainly in Germany.

Austria won maybe the most competitive qualifying group, with first Turkey and then East Germany favoured to come through. But it is not expected to do well in Argentina.



One of the most successful German handball players in 1977 was Helmut Brand, who scored 25 goals for the national side. The German team have recently prepared well for the men's world indoor handball championships beginning soon in Denmark. Since Germany finished up fourth at the Montreal Olympic Games' handball tournament, there has been a definite improvement in performance. Of 18 internationals, up till the end of 1977, 11 were won, three finished as draws and four were lost. The climax of this successful series were the two most recent internationals against Poland, the 1976 bronze medalists. (UNP photo)

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Suarez may decide to call early elections to revive popularity

MADRID, Feb. 7 (R). — Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez is considering holding Spain's second general elections in two years before the summer, immediately after the passage of a new constitution, sources in his party said today. The sources said Senor Suarez felt that the euphoria generated by the new constitution would benefit his Democratic Centre Union (UCD), a coalition of Christian Democrats, Liberals and Social Democrats.

The UCD won the country's first free elections in 41 years last June with a promise to lead Spain into full democracy from the Late Geo. Franco's dictatorship.

With economic problems and political violence eroding his popularity, Premier Suarez is considered to have better chances of winning the elections this year than later.

The new constitution is expected to be passed by parliament in May submitted to a

national referendum immediately afterwards.

Possibly with the elections in mind, the UCD launched a propaganda campaign last week to improve its image and signs that the popularity of Senor Suarez is waning.

"The UCD is convinced as a party that it will continue governing for many years," Senor Suarez told a weekend rally in his hometown of Avila, near Madrid.

"I do not want to say for

how long because I do not wish to disappoint other political groups which obviously aspire to govern," he added.

The UCD has already proposed that the present parliament should continue until 1981 despite opposition demands that it should be dissolved immediately after the passage of the new constitution.

But a victory in post-constitutional elections would be more satisfying because it would give Senor Suarez a vote of confidence which he badly needs.

Results of last year's election gave the UCD 50 per cent of the votes, followed by the Socialists with 29 per cent, the Communists with nine and the rightwing Popular Alliance with eight.

By striking a deal with the Socialists, the Communists and other opposition parties, Senor Suarez has been able to deal with the country's economic and political problems.

But it is a fragile arrangement. The Communists, bolstered by triumphs of their Workers Commissions in recent trade union elections are already becoming restless.

Heyerdahl sets sail again from Karachi

New photo of captive baron reportedly sent

PARIS, Feb. 7 (R). — A French newspaper said today the kidnappers of Belgian industrialist Baron Edouard-Jean Empain have sent his family a photograph showing their captive looking exhausted and with his left hand bloodied.

Police, who have maintained a news blackout since the millionaire was abducted in Paris on Jan. 23, declined to comment on the report in the newspaper France-Soir. The examining magistrate in charge of the case said he knew nothing of the photo.

According to France-Soir, members of the Empain family found the picture in a left-luggage locker at a Paris railway station.

"His face unshaven, his features excessively drawn, his cheeks even more hollow, he seems at the limits of exhaustion and it shows his left hand totally bloodied," the paper said.

France-Soir reported 10 days ago that the Empain family received a packet containing the tip of the baron's little finger. It also said the kidnappers sent an earlier photo as proof that they were holding him captive.

According to unconfirmed reports the kidnappers are demanding a ransom of up to 100 million francs (\$20 million). The baron's Empain-Schne-

der Industrial Group, with 150 companies employing some 120,000 workers world-wide, is involved in steel, shipping, banking, real estate and in the politically-sensitive production of arms and nuclear-power plants.

KARACHI, Feb. 7 (R). — Explorer Thor Heyerdahl set sail in his reed boat Tigris again today only two days after completing a perilous two-week Indian Ocean voyage in which the vessel was twice nearly scuppered by high seas and oil tankers.

Port officials said the Norwegian professor, famous for his 1947 Pacific voyage in the balsa raft Kon Tiki, was heading for Bombay.

Before leaving, Prof. Heyerdahl, 63, described his hazardous 2,000-mile voyage from southern Iraq, which aims to prove that the ancient Sumerians of Mesopotamia followed a similar route to become the first people to spread civilisation by way of the sea.

The most hazardous part of the journey, he said, was near Kuwait when rough seas damaged Tigris. He and his ten-man multinational crew repaired it in Bahrain with date palm leaves.

Sailing into the Gulf of Oman through the Strait of Hormuz, barely 30 miles across in places, the craft was nearly capsized by giant oil tankers passing close by, he said.

The 18-metre boat, built from Reeds to a 5,000-year-old design, left southern Iraq on Nov. 23 and sailed down the Gulf to Muscat in Oman before entering the Indian Ocean.

Prof. Heyerdahl eventually plans to sail in the Pacific in an attempt to make landfall in South America.



Pakistan's military ruler Gen. Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq (right) welcomes the Shah of Iran to Islamabad Airport on Sunday. Empress Farah is seen at centre, in front of accompanying Iranian officials. The Shah made a brief stop-over in Pakistan en route from India to Tehran. (AP wirephoto)

Direct-export Israeli orange turns up poisoned in London

LONDON, Feb. 7 (Agencies). Scotland Yard's Anti-Terrorist Squad was called in today to investigate the discovery of a mercury-injected poisoned orange bought by a London housewife.

The orange was in a bag bought by Mrs. Christine Chapman last week at the Jewish-owned Marks and Spencer department store in London's Edgware Road.

She spotted "pinhead-size metal drops" when she cut open the orange and immediately notified police.

Poisoned oranges have now been found in five European countries in the past week, including Belgium, Holland, Sweden and West Germany.

A group claiming to be Palestinian has claimed responsibility for contaminating the fruit — mostly Jaffa oranges from Israel — and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin has accused "terrorists" of trying to undermine the Israeli economy.

No one who has eaten a mercury-orange has died, but some have been violently ill. Police here warned that the mercury might have been injected with a hypodermic syringe after the orange was on the counter at shops.

Westminster City Council, the local London government authority which analysed the orange bought by Mrs. Chapman, warned shoppers to cut

open all oranges before eating them and to look for droplets of silver grey.

A London spokesman for the Israeli Citrus Marketing Board, Roy Lewis, said: "There is no doubt the orange was poisoned in this country — by whom or where we cannot yet speculate."

Previously it was thought that all Jaffa oranges imported to Britain were safe as they were exported directly from Israel.

The Palestine Liberation Or-

ganisation office here today denied any connection with poisoned Israeli oranges.

A PLO spokesman here denied any knowledge of the Arab Revolutionary Army which had claimed responsibility for poisoning the fruit. The spokesman said: "This is all very mysterious and the PLO is completely against this way of fighting."

The PLO headquarters in Beirut has already denied the claim that Palestinians had poisoned Israeli oranges.

Israel prohibits film on how its soldiers evicted Arab villagers

TEL AVIV, Feb. 7 (R). — Israeli Education and Culture Minister Zevelun Hammer last night banned the showing on television here of a film depicting the eviction of Arab villagers by Israeli soldiers in 1948. Israeli Critics had opposed the film since it "could serve as Palestinian propaganda against Israel."

But the Israeli Film and Television Directors' Guild urged Mr. Hammer "not to become the first cabinet minister to undermine Israel's democracy." Argument about the film, based on a short story written soon after the 1948 war, has been raging in the press here and in public debate for several months.

Blizzard paralyses U.S. northeast as 50 cms. of snow fall

NEW YORK, Feb. 7 (Agencies). — A raging blizzard paralysed the northeastern United States today, stranding thousands of people as roads, airports and railway tracks became snowbound.

Snow as deep as 50 cms. in places blocked cities from Baltimore to Boston, and winds of up to 64 kph whipped the snow into giant drifts and frustrated efforts to clear motorways and airport runways.

Snow, which started heavily yesterday, was expected to keep falling today to depths to 63 cms.

A thousand cars were reported by police to be stranded on a major highway in suburban Long Island, east of New York City, and owners of snowmobiles were asked to help rescue drivers. Most were commuters who had gone to work yesterday before the blizzard struck.

A Greek-registered tanker, the 22,944-ton Global Hope, reported it was leaking at the seams while at anchor off Salem, Massachusetts. A coast guard cutter headed for the stricken ship to help the 32-man crew.

About 900 people were stranded on commuter trains in Long Island and a rescue train which went to get them was itself stuck in the snow.

Authorities in the northeast cautioned people against driving, and business activity was at a minimum throughout the day.

Yesterday, stock exchanges closed early and virtually all schools closed.

The situation was the same elsewhere, from Virginia to Boston. Thirty-five cms. of snow blanketed Baltimore, paralysing the city.

In Philadelphia, businesses closed early for the day or did not open at all.

On Cape Cod, near Boston, winds were recorded at 134 kph as the savage storm slowly moved northwards from the North Carolina coast, where it accumulated vast amounts of

moisture from the Atlantic. Much of Boston and its suburbs were crippled today when a blizzard knocked out electric power and buried the area under 50 cms. of snow. Some 75,000 customers in Boston lost power when the storm short-circuited above-ground transmission facilities owned by Boston Edison Company early this morning, officials said.

A spokesman for the company said that it would take "a number of hours" to restore power.

U.S. attempts to whitewash Turk atrocities, says Cypriot minister

NICOSIA, Feb. 7 (AP). — Cypriot Foreign Minister John Christofides has accused the United States of attempting to whitewash atrocities committed by Turkey when it invaded Cyprus in 1974 and during the continuing occupation of the war-divided island.

The charges were made in a lengthy statement issued by Mr. Christofides late last night.

The statement said a White House report dealing with human rights in Cyprus, submitted to the U.S. Congress last week, was biased.

"It is characterised by an evident attempt to exonerate Turkey from its heavy responsibilities for the invasion and the continuing occupation, and also for the atrocities which the Turkish army perpetuates and continues to perpetrate in Cyprus," Mr. Christofides declared.

World News Briefs

Canada recovers some 12 Cosmos pieces

EDMONTON, Canada, Feb. 7 (AP). — Debris from the Soviet Cosmos spy satellite has been located in at least a dozen spots in the wilds of northern Canada, but searchers have not determined whether the satellite's nuclear reactor survived the fiery plunge into the earth's atmosphere. "It's too soon to say," Dr. Roger Eaton, a scientific adviser to Canada's Atomic Energy Control Board, told a news conference yesterday when asked if the pieces of metal collected so far provided any clues to the fate of the reactor's core of about 100 pounds of uranium 235. The search for the core, which would be lethally radioactive, began when the satellite re-entered the atmosphere on Jan. 24 and disintegrated in flames over Canada's Northwest Territories.

U.S. B-52 bomber vandalised in Georgia

WARNER ROBINS, Georgia, Feb. 7 (AP). — The Strategic Air Command is concentrating on base personnel in its investigation into the vandalism of a B-52 bomber at Robins Air Force Base, the U.S. air force said yesterday. Air force sources in Washington said the B-52 bomber, vandalised on Friday, is an "alert bomber" — which means was armed with short range missile and nuclear weapons. Officials at the base said only minor damage was done to the plane's cockpit.

Costa Rican opposition wins election

SAN JOSE, Feb. 7 (R). — Opposition leader Rodrigo Carazo today claimed victory in Costa Rica's presidential elections after half the votes had been counted. With no indication of when the final results of Sunday's voting would be known, Senor Carazo had won just over 50 per cent, compared with about 42 per cent for Senor Luis Alberto Monge representing the ruling National Liberation Party.

Czech hijacker wants W. German asylum

FRANKFURT, Feb. 7 (R). — A 24-year-old engineer hijacked a Czechoslovak airliner in Frankfurt yesterday and asked for political asylum, police said. Informed sources said four East German passengers had also asked to stay in West Germany. Police said the Czechoslovak hijacker, Vladislav Molnar, 24, took over the plane with 40 passengers and five crew during a flight from East Berlin to Prague.

Search for new Kuwaiti premier begins

KUWAIT, Feb. 7 (R). — The emir of Kuwait last night began talks to find a new prime minister following the resignation of Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah's consultations were expected to last two days, when the premier-designate would be announced an official spokesman said. The new government team was expected to be named at the weekend, the spokesman said.

India frees 17 anti-Shah demonstrators

NEW DELHI, Feb. 7 (R). — Seventeen Iranian students, arrested during the Shah of Iran's visit here last week, have been freed on bail. Their release was ordered yesterday by a Delhi magistrate, who restored their bail bonds revoked last Saturday after the prosecution alleged the Iranians had given false information about their identities. More than 100,000 Indian students at two Delhi universities went on strike yesterday to back demand for the unconditional release of the 17 Iranians.

Paraguay's Stroessner already knows he will retain presidency in this month's election

The South American state of Paraguay is about to hold a presidential election. Everybody knows already who is going to win — Gen. Alfredo Stroessner, who has been in office for the past 24 years. Stroessner leads the Colorado Party and to get a good job in Paraguay you must belong to the party. Political prisoners languish in jail and there have been reports of kidnappings, torture, and political murder.

By Patrick Knight

ASUNCION — A presidential election is to take place in Paraguay in this month, but not only does everybody know who is going to win, they also know by exactly how much. Gen. Alfredo Stroessner, in the saddle for 24 years, will gain 85 per cent of the votes, while two weak and almost unknown opposition candidates will get 10 per cent and 5 per cent each.

President Stroessner leads the Colorado Party. To get a job as a government official, to be a junior or secondary teacher, to hold legal office, or become an army officer, you have to join too.

This is one reason why Stroessner is so sure of winning. The other is that serious opponents have been systematically expelled from Paraguay over the years. There are 3.5 million Paraguayans, but a million live abroad, mostly in Argentina.

As a further reminder that it does not pay to oppose Stroessner, 220 political prisoners are held here, 200 of them since last April, when there was a round-up of young people accused of having links with guerrillas in Argentina,

as well as peasants who, with the backing of the church, were trying to organise co-operatives. This was seen as a major threat to the hold on power exercised by the middle men, key agents in the Colorado Party.

Besides the prisoners taken last year, a dozen have languished in jail for between 15-20 years. An army captain has been held in a cell measuring one metre by two for 15 years and his health is now deteriorating.

Another is a peasant considered to be innocent of any offence. He is being held to intimidate those working on behalf of human rights in Paraguay. For although four long-serving Communists were released from jail as a concession to the Carter human rights campaign early last year, little else has changed politically in Paraguay.

The opposition Liberal Party did manage to overcome its differences and form a union at the beginning of 1977. It looked for a while as if Stroessner might for the first time be given a run for his money. But following bribes, infiltration and threats, the Liberals have now disintegrated into six factions and the Electoral Board has given only

the two weakest and most corrupt groups permission to put up presidential candidates. The more honest and popular opposition leaders will not be allowed to participate.

They are now urging their supporters to cast blank votes, but as Stroessner's men count all the votes, this will make little difference to the result.

Despite a dead hand on politics, the economy is beginning to move in Paraguay. Soaring world prices for soya be-

ans and the high grade cotton grown in Paraguay have encouraged landowners, many of them recent migrants from Brazil and Japan, as well as a large Mennonite community, to cultivate large areas of new lands.

The dollars earned from agricultural exports, boosted Paraguay's income in 1977 and it may cease to be almost the poorest country in Latin America. So far there is little sign of the new wealth being distributed. Most of it is being

spent on luxury goods for the few or no property speculation. Rents tripled in Asuncion last year.

One business carries on exactly as before, smuggling. Paraguay imports \$12 million worth of whisky a year, which means almost ten million bottles at duty free prices. It also buys \$5 million worth of cigarettes from the U.S. as well as French wines and champagne.

All these luxury goods are then "distributed" to neighbouring Latin American countries, and eventually sold at five or six times the duty free price, bringing an immense income to the army officers, government ministers and others whose huge fortunes come from contraband.

The Asuncion streets are often blocked with hooting Mercedes, Volvos and Peugeots. There is even the odd Rolls Royce Silver Shadow. In the countryside the hullock cart is still the main means of transport.

But although Paraguay remains in many ways the same as it was 50 years ago other factors apart from agriculture are pressing for change.

Work is now well under way on building what will be the world's biggest hydro-electric power station jointly with Brazil on the River Parana called Itaipu. This will eventually produce 12,000 megawatts, more than half all the electricity generated in Brazil at the moment.

Paraguay is not having to pay out for its construction, although it will be part owner when it is completed in the late 1980s. Its share of the

debt will be paid off by the sale to Brazil of its half of the power generated, although it will be half-a-century before money actually starts to flow into the Paraguayan exchequer.

In the meantime, the only real benefits are the wages for the 20,000 Paraguayan workers helping in construction, also contributing to inflation in the country.

But Itaipu, a slightly smaller dam being built on the same basis with Argentina downstream and the possibility of yet a third, will bring real change to Paraguay.

It is almost certain that this year's election will be the last where there is only one candidate, and where there is only a clever pretence at democracy, achieved by paying members of parliament large salaries, and a series of perks, so as to persuade some so-called opposition members to participate in the charade.

The real opposition feels that time is running out for Stroessner. The world can no longer tolerate the existence of a country whose wealth is left idle, and whose inhabitants are deliberately kept in virtual misery, so that the ruling clique can bask in wealth, unconcerned about the fate of their fellows.

Stroessner has survived by virtually erasing Paraguay from the map. But the world is shrinking fast, and the country cannot be left fallow, peopled only by illiterate peasants and Indians who do not even speak or understand Spanish, just for the benefit of a handful of whisky smugglers.



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